

REMARKS

Applicants note that their traversal applies to the separation of the compositions comprising caged RNA and the methods of attenuating expression using caged RNA, namely, the separation of Group I from Group III (and similarly separation of Group II from Group IV).

Applicants note that the material difference cited by the Examiner is unclear. Namely, the Restriction Requirement indicates that the inventions of Groups I and III are distinct since the method of Group III "can be practiced with a single stranded oligonucleotide, which does not involve the double stranded molecule of group I." However, since the Requirement limits Group III to methods in which the RNA is double-stranded, this argument is not applicable.

Groups I and III can therefore be searched together in a single application without creating an undue burden on the Examiner.

With respect to non-elected Group II, Applicants note that there appears to be a typographical error in the Requirement. Claim 114 is not included in any of the Groups in the Requirement; however, since claim 114 depends from claim 104, Applicants assume Group II was intended to include this claim in addition to those listed in the Requirement.

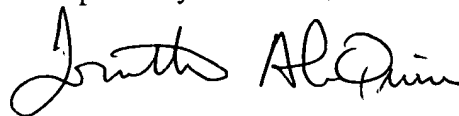
Applicants note that this election may not be taken as a dedication to the public of the non-elected group (or any other subject matter) and Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims and to traverse any restriction requirement that may be applied in any divisional or continuation application.

CONCLUSION

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 337-7871.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Alan Quine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" and last name "Quine" clearly distinguishable.

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For Monica Elrod-Erickson, Reg.
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